

**Claims**

1. Use of a PPAR $\alpha$  agonist for the manufacture of a medicament for treatment or prevention of HCV infection in a mammal.
- 5 2. A method of treating or preventing HCV infection in a mammalian subject comprising administration to that subject of a therapeutically effective amount of a PPAR $\alpha$  agonist.
- 10 3. The method according to Claim 2 wherein the PPAR $\alpha$  agonist is administered in combination with one or more therapeutic agents selected from interferon- $\alpha$ , pegylated interferon- $\alpha$ , ribavirin, a HCV NS3 protease inhibitor, a HCV polymerase inhibitor, anti-HCV antibodies and a HCV vaccine.
- 15 4. The use according to Claim 1 or the method according to Claim 2 or 3 wherein the mammal is a human.
5. A method of inhibiting entry of HCV to a cell comprising contacting said cell with a PPAR $\alpha$  agonist.
- 20 6. The method according to Claim 5 wherein the cell is a hepatocyte.
7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a PPAR $\alpha$  agonist and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier in combination with one or more therapeutic agents  
25 selected from interferon- $\alpha$ , pegylated interferon- $\alpha$ , ribavirin, a HCV NS3 protease inhibitor, a HCV polymerase inhibitor, anti-HCV antibodies and a HCV vaccine.
8. A kit comprising a PPAR $\alpha$  agonist and one or more therapeutic agents selected from interferon- $\alpha$ , pegylated interferon- $\alpha$ , ribavirin, a HCV NS3 protease inhibitor, a  
30 HCV polymerase inhibitor, anti-HCV antibodies and a HCV vaccine, for simultaneous or sequential administration.

9. The use according to Claim 1 or 4, the method according to any one of Claims 2 to 6, the pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 7, or the kit according to Claim 8 wherein the PPAR $\alpha$  agonist is a selective PPAR $\alpha$  agonist.

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10. The use according to Claim 1 or 4, the method according to any one of Claims 2 to 6, the pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 7, or the kit according to Claim 8 wherein the PPAR $\alpha$  agonist is a PPAR  $\alpha/\gamma$  dual agonist.

10 11. The use according to Claim 1 or 4, the method according to any one of Claims 2 to 6, the pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 7, or the kit according to Claim 8 wherein the PPAR $\alpha$  agonist is fenofibrate, bezafibrate, ciprofibrate, gemfibrozil or MK-0767.